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Hospital Disaster Preparedness: Past, Present and Future

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and
Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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New Orleans, Louisiana

Summary of accomplishments by DHH and Partners:

Hurricane Katrina:

PRE-STORM:

- Established Triage lines to assist special needs evacuees to make decisions about leaving with their families, reporting to special needs shelters as a last resort or seeking shelter or care at hospitals.
- Accepted 150 special needs evacuees in Baton Rouge from the Superdome prior to storm.
- Assisted with equipment and staffing to City of Orleans to open section of Superdome for special needs evacuees (approximately 400 capacity).
- Opened with DSS and DHH staff and supplies 7- Special Needs Shelters
- Cared for 1200 special needs evacuees pre-storm
- Nursing Home Association assisted 19 nursing homes evacuate pre-storm
- LA Hospital Association assisted hospitals evacuate patients that were able to travel and admitted patients that were too ill to travel
- EMS assisted with the transport of hospital and special needs evacuees

Summary of accomplishments by DHH and Partners:

Hurricane Katrina:

POST-STORM:

- Federal DMAT sent to the Superdome with a DHH Advance Team to assist with medical needs
- Special Needs sheltering expanded at Nicholls State University and LSU to establish TMOSAs – Temporary Medical Operations and Staging Areas.
- LSU – TMOSA, Pete Maravich Assembly Center opened as a surge facility for emergency rooms with the capacity for 800 beds. Over 40,000 evacuees were triaged at this facility.
- Nicholls State TMOSA, Lafourche – triaged over 20,000 evacuees.
- Other Special Needs Shelters around the state expanded capacity to care for over 2000 special needs evacuees at one time.
- Worked with NDMS to create a Med-evac Program at the Kenner Airport – to send 1800 hospital patients out of state.

- Sent EMS Teams to Search and Rescue Base of Operations (SARBOO) at the Causeway to help triage thousands of evacuees.
- LA Nursing Home Association helped get resources to evacuate another 34 homes
- LA Hospital Association helped evacuate 25 hospitals – 12,000 patients and caregivers
- Evacuated 120 premature and newborn babies to Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge
- Immunizations and pharmaceuticals provided to evacuees in shelters with the help of OPH, NDMS, and USPHS.
- Assisted with medical professionals and supplies to support West Jefferson, East Jefferson and Oschner hospitals to remain open
- Coordinated credentialing and placement of medical volunteers
- Worked with DMORT to address the deceased

Hurricane Rita

PRE-STORM:

- The Special Needs Shelters in Lake Charles and Lafayette moved to Shreveport and Monroe respectively.
- The Special Needs Shelters in Alexandria and Baton Rouge increased their capacity to receive evacuees
- School gymnasiums opened to Nursing Homes to evacuate because the other nursing home facilities were already filled with Katrina evacuees (24 nursing homes evacuated for Rita pre-storm).
- 19 hospitals evacuated patients within the state with a few patients going out of state
- Medical needs of general shelters addressed with EMS, DMAT and USPHS teams because all shelters were already at capacity.

Hurricane Rita

POST-STORM:

- Re-opened Special Needs Shelters and operated a TMOSA in Lafayette to serve returning Rita and Katrina evacuees
- Opened a TMOSA at St. Patrick's Hospital, Lake Charles
- Opened a SARBOO at the Convention Center, Lake Charles
- Assisted with hospital surge by accepting hospital discharge patients to special needs shelters.
- Sent medical professionals and DMAT teams to identified hospitals so that they could address surge
- Worked with DMORT to address re-interment

Crosswalk of LRA and Healthcare Reform Projects

	Louisiana Recovery Authority	Healthcare Reform
Primary Question:	<i>How do we mitigate disaster? How do we minimize risk?</i>	<i>How do we address the changing population needs? How do we improve health outcomes?</i>
Imminent Threat:	Upcoming Hurricane Season Pandemic Flu	Increased healthcare demands Decreased resources
Pre-Katrina/Rita Plans:	Model Home Health Plan Model Nursing Home Plan Dialysis Referral Network Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Hospital Network Special Needs Sheltering Network	A: Provide Care to the Uninsured B: Access to appropriate healthcare resources C: Improve and restructure long-term care D: Health Education and Awareness E: Improve administrative delivery of healthcare F: Focus on performance outcomes using evidence based principles

Crosswalk of LRA and Healthcare Reform Projects

	Louisiana Recovery Authority	Healthcare Reform
Post-Katrina/Rita Plans:	Review, Reinforce, Reformulate Model Plans to address gaps	A: Uninsured - Determine the population, demographics, and funding for the uninsured
	Integration of networks	B: Access - Address the increase in mental health and primary care needs; address health in schools
	Support for the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (Trauma/Time-sensitive illnesses network)	C: Long-Term Care - incentivize assisted living and right-sizing institutional care
	Support for development of DHH Emergency Preparedness Office	D: Health Education - Incentivize wellness to decrease demand on limited resources
	Address building codes to mitigate threat risk	E: Delivery/ Accountability - Revisit Medicaid policy to incentivize preventive care to mitigate increase in healthcare spending
		F: Performance Outcomes - Continue to encourage and incentivize best practices

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The Future:

Health Care's Needs to Prepare and Respond to Catastrophic Disasters

- **Continue HRSA Grants, with increased level of funding**
- **Reform Stafford Act to include health care costs for catastrophic events and long term response**
- **Funding for purchase and pre-staging of generators for special needs shelters**
- **Mitigation funds for relocation of hospital generators**